

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst carrier comprising:

~~a ceramic substrate composed mainly of ceramics; a cordierite honeycomb structure having a plurality of cells; and~~

~~a pre-coat layer applied formed on the ceramic substrate, walls of the cells,~~

wherein the pre-coat layer comprises titanium oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) in an amount of at least 30 mass %; and

~~wherein the ceramic substrate is a honeycomb structure 30% so as to protect the walls from an alkali and/or an alkali earth metal when used for purifying an exhaust gas.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein at least a part of said TiO<sub>2</sub> is rutile type TiO<sub>2</sub>.

10. (Previously Presented) The catalyst carrier according to claim 9, wherein a ratio of the rutile type TiO<sub>2</sub> to the whole TiO<sub>2</sub> is at least 50 mass %.

11. (Previously Presented) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein an amount of the pre-coat layer per unit volume of the catalyst carrier (amount of the pre-coat layer/volume of the catalyst carrier) is 5 to 200 g/liter.

12. (Previously Presented) The catalyst carrier according to claim 8, wherein the ceramics is cordierite.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising:

~~a catalyst carrier having a ceramic substrate composed mainly of ceramics, a cordierite honeycomb structure having a plurality of cells, and a pre-coat layer applied formed on the ceramic substrate, walls of the cells, the pre-coat layer having titanium oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) in an amount of at least 30 mass %;~~

~~wherein the ceramic substrate is a honeycomb structure, 30% so as to protect the walls from an alkali and/or an alkali earth metal when used for purifying an exhaust gas, and wherein~~

~~the alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal is loaded on the catalyst carrier.~~

15. (New) The catalyst body according to claim 14, wherein the alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal is configured as a catalyst for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction contained in an exhaust gas from an engine.